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Commander addresses future AF leaders

by Katherine Gleason, AFRL Public Affairs

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. — Air Force Research Laboratory Commander Maj. Gen. Paul D. Nielsen spoke to an audience of future Air Force leaders at the Air War College (AWC), Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., on Jan. 9. The speech was part of an effort to emphasize the importance of science and technology to the Air Force mission.

Nielsen stated that it was both a great honor and an important responsibility to educate tomorrow's senior leaders on the role of science and technology in their Air Force careers.

"One major asymmetrical technical breakthrough could change the global balance of power," said Nielsen. "It could greatly alter the successes we've had in recent conflicts, and could send out men and women into conflict without the qualitative advantage we've promised them."

Nielsen's talk focused on the Air Force science and technology initiative, and the important role of S&T in maintaining Air Force dominance. He provided the audience with a brief introduction to AFRL and highlighted past and present contributions. Nielsen concluded by offering a glimpse into the future of advanced Air Force technology.

"Gen. Nielsen was very well received," said Lt. Col. John P Geis, II, Director of Operations for the Center for Strategy and Technology at AWC. "The level of activity during his question and answer session showed a high level of interest by the students."

The talk was part of the Strategic Leadership in the Digital Age Program being hosted by the Leadership and Ethics Department of AWC.

"The visit was a great success," said Geis. "Our goal was to educate AWC students on the lab and Air Force technology. By having Gen. Nielsen speak about emerging technology concepts, we're preparing Air Force leaders to conduct and lead operations on the battlefields of the future."

AWC is the senior Air Force professional military school. It prepares nearly 4,000 students annually from all branches of the U.S. military, federal agencies, and 45 other nations to lead the next generation of warfighters. @